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PAGE 01 SAIGON 11731 260142Z

87
ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7769
INFO USDEL FRANCE

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ELECTION INSTRUCTIONS

REF: A) STATE 133414 PoL 14 Viet S XR ORG 12 Saigon
B) STATE 092997
C) LETTER, MACJOIR, SUBJ: ELECTIONS 7.15.71
D) SAIGON 11469

FOLLOWING FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO CHAIRMAN MOORHEAD'S REQUESTS:

1. AT MISSION COUNCIL JUNE 2 AMBASSADOR ISSUED ELECTION POLI
INSTRUCTION AND DIRECTED HEADS ALL MISSION ELEMENTS ENSURE
THAT EVERY AMERICAN OFFICIAL UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION GIV(

OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE INSTRUCTION. ALL ELEMENTS OF MISS
IMPLEMENTED DIRECTIVE AND WIDELY DISSEMINATED INSTRUCTION
VERBATIM AT EVERY LEVEL. SINCE THEN, PROVINCIAL AND CAPIT
PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON US POSTURE DURING ELECTION
PERIOD AT SENIOR OFFICERS' CONFERENCE AND MISSION ORIENTATION
MEETINGS.

2. INSTRUCTION [illegible]RATELY TRANSMITTED TO HEADQUARTERS MACV WITH
AMBASSADOR'S D[illegible]VE THAT IT BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION
OF ALL AMERICAN [illegible]ARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL THROUGH APPROPRIATE
MACV AND CORDS CHANNELS. INSTRUCTION WAS DISPATCHED THROUGH
COMMAND CHANNELS JUNE 9. (MACCORDS IS NOW PREPARING RESPONSE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izabey DATE 1/26/82
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Saigon 11731 7-26-71

TO OSD QUERY DETAILING DISSEMINATION PROCESS AND GATHERING COPIES OF RELEVANT IMPLEMENTING DOCUMENTS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON.)

3. IN ACCORD WITH DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON DISSEMINATION (REF B) INSTRUCTION CLASSIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE (OR MACV EQUIVALENT, FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY) WITH NOTATION THAT US OFFICIALS AND ADVISORS FREE TO DRAW UPON PAPER IN DISCUSSING US ELECTION POLICY WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS OR THE PRESS. FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S JUNE 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, INSTRUCTION BECAME UNCLASSIFIED AND SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM WAS ISSUED THROUGH MACV CHANNELS (REF C) ENCLOSING A VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION OF AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN TO THE VIETNAMESE COUNTERPARTS OF ALL REGIONAL DEPCORDS, PROVINCE SENIOR ADVISORS, AND DISTRICT SENIOR ADVISORS. EMBASSY OFFICERS TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF DECLASSIFICATION TO MORE WIDELY DISSEMINATE AND DISCUSS INSTRUCTION WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC FIGURES AT ALL LEVELS IN ORDER ENSURE THAT US POLICY OF IMPARTIALITY WOULD BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD.

4. SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION ALSO HAS BEEN ISSUED BY USPAO AND MACV (JOINT PSYOPS POLICY GUIDANCE PAPER NO. 109) DELINEATING THE CONDUCT OF USG VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES AND USE OF US PSYOP ASSETS IN ORDER TO AVOID COMMINGLING OF USG AND GVN INFORMATION EFFORTS. IN ADDITION, USPAO HAS REVIEWED AND WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW ITS OPERATIONS TO ELIMIATE ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO INADVERTENT INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTIONS (REF D). OTHER MISSION ELEMENTS DOING SAME.

5. WE AGREE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL TO INFORM THE CHAIRMAN THAT UNOFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE NOT UNDER THE AMBASSADOR'S AUTHORITY. WE DOUBT THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL PROBLEM WITH USG CONTRACT EMPLOYEES INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN THE ELECTION PROCESS. AS SITUATIONS ARISE THE EMBASSY WILL DO ITS BEST TO RESTRAIN SUCH POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND, AS YOU NOTE, THE VIETNAMESE CAN BE EXPECTED TO APLY THEIR WHOLLY ADEQUATE LEGISLATION TO CHECK POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SOUTH VIET-NAM BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.

6. YOU MAY INFORM THE CHAIRMAN THAT WE BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE A THOROUGH AND CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT TO INSURE THAT CONDUCT OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN REGARD TO THE VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS IS

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 11731 260142Z

FULLY CORRECT.
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